action is needed to conserve and maintain genes, species and ecosystems.

(c) and (d) A scheme has already been launched during 1992-93 to associate scheduled tribes and rural poor in regeneration of degraded forests with the aim of improving bio-mass resource base in such areas. This will provide gainful employment and the resource so generated will serve as an economic base for the scheduled tribes and other rural poor by sharing of usufructs. Another scheme called Eco-development around National Parks and Sanctuaries has also been taken up to provide alternative sources for meeting the forest based needs of the people living in the fringes of protected areas and providing them improved avenues of gainful employment and better living.

Environmental Clearance to Tatas Aqua-Culture Project in Chilka Lagoon

1035. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre has rejected the Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCO) report giving environmental clearance to Tatas aqua-culture project in Chilka lagoon; and

(b) if so, what were the over-riding technical considerations that prompted the Centre to reject the WAPCO report and whether there were extraneous angles other than technical in rejection of the WAPCO report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Based on an examination of the report for the Chilka Aquatic Farms prepared by the Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Ltd., (WAPCOS), the State Government of Orissa has been advised that a multi-disciplinary group should be involved to carry out a proper environmental impact assessment study, as per terms of reference suggested for this purpose. It has also been pointed out that Chilka Lake is getting choked by siltation, which will get aggravated by construction of barriers of various kinds within the lake area and in the Bhubania nallah that drains into the lake and becomes a part of the lake during the rainy season and some months thereafter each year. Permission for allowing construction of permanent bunds for the farm ponds will only legitimise the intrusion and consequent process of degradation.

Environmental Clearance to Natural Gas based Power Plant in Andhra Pradesh

1036. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether environmental clearance was given to the 220 MW natural gas based power plant at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) A 200 MW gas based power plant at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh has been recently accorded environmental clearance subject to certain conditions. These include compliance of prescribed standards, installation of suitable pollution control devices, setting up